Wilson's Update
Non sibi sed omnibus

THOUGH MUCH IS TAKEN, MUCH ABIDES

It would be easy to dwell on the many things that have continued to be taken from us during summer term 2021 – the usual opportunities for older pupils to visit places abroad (and for younger pupils to explore the Brecon Beacons), the full sporting and artistic calendar of events, and the sense of security and confidence that comes from more predictable circumstances! Furthermore, those pupils who have been advised or required to isolate have missed out on learning and other school experiences – albeit only for a few days at a time.

But, as ever, we must reflect on that which abides. This term, under our Covid risk assessment, a huge range of activities has taken place! The term ended with the usual Sports Day, there was a Lower School production ("Fantastic Mr Fox"), there have been concerts (including the Grand Finale of our House Music Competition, judged by the Director of Music at Worcester Cathedral, an Old Wisonian), a very full sporting calendar (compromised more by the weather than Covid!), trips for whole year groups (to Kew Gardens, RHS Wisley, and the beautiful coastline at Eastbourne), a Year 7 Music Day, a massive University Preparation Programme involving every student in Year 12 over the course of a week (which in itself involved various trips and visits for some), and a Speak Out Challenge for Year 10.

Furthermore – with the usual care to adhere to the school's risk assessment – co-curricular activities have continued in every aspect of school life: in addition to the staples of Sport, Music, Chess, CCF, Drama, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, Gardening and Bird Watching Clubs have flourished, the Wilson's Intrigue and Politeia teams have continued to produce entirely student-led publications of high quality, and pupils have continued to enjoy experiences in cycling, golf, tennis and athletics within and beyond the school.

Congratulations and thank you to all pupils and staff who have been involved in these activities. In recognition of their achievements, a video is available https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lCho_h9Nvzo, setting some images from this term to our Barbershop Ensemble's performance of "Though Much is Taken, Much Abides" by Victor C. Johnson, which sets selected lines from Tennyson's Ulysses, at the Vocal Evening a few weeks ago. Have a great summer!

2021-2 PREFECTS RECEIVE THEIR TIES FROM THE HEADMASTER





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16 July, 2021

Links

Next Week's Menus

Absence Request Form

Calendar

Looking Ahead

- Please see website for details of start dates in September for different year groups.

Deputy Head's Reminder

Wellbeing during the summer holiday

The upcoming holiday provides a wonderful opportunity for us all to relax and recharge. Miss Banner has used the announcements slides to provide some very good advice about effective ways to unwind. All pupils in Years 7-10 have also been reminded this week about Kooth – an anonymous online service where young people can talk to professional counsellor. It's commissioned by the NHS and is available to any young person aged 11-25.

A TRULY FANTASTIC MR FOX!

The John Jenkins Hall has been once again alive this week, with the sounds of the Junior Production blasting out Pink Floyd, Alice Cooper and Star Wars into the corridors of the main school. This year's offering, Roal Dahl's FANTASTIC MR FOX – a cartoony short story about three horrid farmers who try to catch and kill a crafty fox who continues to steal their chickens, ducks, geese and cider! The production is a riot from start to finish and once again is a wonderful example of the team spirit and high standards drama maintains at the school. The cast are universally strong as the disgusting farmers and the various woodland creatures, and the crew have once again outdone themselves building the three levelled set from scratch under the design and direction of Director of Drama, Mr Kavanagh. Special mention must also go to Mrs. Straw for her tireless work on the handmade costumes, and to Miss Horton, Miss Banner and Mr Elwood for their continued help and support. For some time, with theatre's closing and with students isolating from the cast, it looked as though the production may not go ahead, but thanks to the hard work of the team the production was able to be fully realised and has played to modest, covid-safe audiences. Here's to many more!














YEAR 7s MAKING MUSIC

Staff and students at Wilson's were treated to a summery lunchtime treat this Wednesday, as our Year 7 students got together in the sunshine to perform some music. For our Year 7 Choir and Year 7 Wind Band, this was the perfect opportunity to share the items they had been preparing for the Summer Concert, which was sadly cancelled 2 weeks ago. The Wind Band played film classics including Raiders March, and the Choir finished with a rousing rendition of Don't Stop Believing. These ensembles were joined by 2 'scratch' groups, who spent some time earlier in the day putting together some uplifting and energetic pieces. The students did fantastically well, especially with what has been significantly reduced rehearsal time this year, and brought smiles to everyone's faces. We'll done Year 7! Thank you to the stellar team of instrumental teachers, who have inspired and supported the students all year.





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WARWICK UNIVERSITY COMPETITION

Four Year 12 Geography students entered the Warwick University Global Sustainable Development Competition in May 2021. The students were asked to submit an essay, a podcast, photo series or artistic exploration examining either: the sustainability of the consumption habits of society, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic or the desired outcomes of the upcoming COP26 Climate Change Conference. All four students' entries: three essays and one collection of poems were shortlisted and as a result all four students participated in an online virtual conference about the importance of sustainable development and the role young people in pushing forward the sustainable development agenda amongst their peer groups and in their community.

Two of the entrants, Clint and Prabhas (both Year 12) won the overall competition in their respective categories: essay and creative submissions. The Geography Department is very proud of the creativity and geographical research that both Clint and Prabhas exhibited with their entries to the competition. To share this with you below you will find one of the four poems that Prabhas wrote and an extract from Clint's essay who both answered the question: "Do you think the society we live in can be sustainable or do we need to change our habits fundamentally".

Loss
It was once a wonder you know. Home. Mind.
It was long before you were even born.
In a palace of a thousand trees, it was a drop of gold in a sea of smaragdine.
And we were lost, enchanted, in this kind
Utopian paradise, where enshrined
lies God's lush, tranquil garden, where adorned
by the Amazon's gift - the troubadour
of life, the sounds of rain on trees and hoots of birds are froz'n in time.
My heart's still there – though we left long ago.
Amid the crowded city's din, we can
still feel the withering wind as it blows
And bellows smoke, and chars and sears our skin.
We stare, eyes stinging, skin singeing, and qualm
Remembering nature: our fire-flooded home.

Extract from Clint's Essay:
On my way back from school on Tuesday night, I took a deep dive into Morrison's reduced section. The standout item was a 300g packet of Chicken breasts, for the price of 90p, considered loose change by an increasing number globally. However, behind the 90p label, there is a significant environmental cost: for every gram of chicken over a gallon of water is used in production, straining a resource which is still unavailable for much of the developing world. That being said, chicken can be considered a "sustainable" alternative to red meat. Beef has upwards of four the carbon footprint of poultry meats, producing roughly 30kg of CO_2 per kilo. Yet beef remains readily available at British stores at prices which mask the environmental repercussions, which supermarkets fail to consider.



Pictured above: Clint and Prabhas

MEDICAL SOCIETY TALK FROM DR AHMED HANKIR

Dr Hankir and Andy Thomas, an AMPH (approved mental health practitioner) recently visited Wilson's to give a talk. A full report of this visit can be found on the Wilson's website.

Last week, we were fortunate enough to hear from Andy Thomas, an approved mental health professional (AMHP), speak about the nature of his role and how he works alongside doctors to support patients with serious mental health disorders. He described his involvement in the assessment of patients that can ultimately result in their detainment for an extended period (between 28 days and 6 months) to protect the public, their close ones and/or themselves: indeed, only a high court judge has the power to detain an individual for a longer period of time. Andy conveyed the stress that comes with this degree of responsibility, but also emphasised the privilege of supporting vulnerable patients and coordinating their care at their time of most need. He also spoke of the societal injustices faced by those suffering with mental health disorders and the importance of empathy. Andy helped to highlight the need to grow as a person through experience, rather than just academically."

Article by Aadil (Year 12)



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ESCARGOT..... HEAVEN OR HELL?



Their texture is kind of shrimp-like… They are firm and meaty, not soft and slimy…. So, what is our Year 8 French students' verdict? It is a 10/10 or "Heaven" for all of them who tasted snails for the first time as part of their end of year enrichment activities. As trivial as it sounds, eating cooked snails without any seasoning or sauce gives you a full experience of the true flavour. They may have a chewy snail texture. Some even said they tasted like chicken or mushrooms and many said that snails tasted delicious. An overall success!

CHURROS IN SPANISH!



Last Tuesday we made churros in the cookery classroom, enhancing our listening skills by following the recipe from a Spanish instruction video . Making the dough was fairly simple for someone who had not made this dish before like me! The hardest part was probably putting the dough into the piping bag . We had to make sure that there was not too much otherwise the dough would come out of the top of the bag. When fried in oil, the churros had a rich golden colour and tasted delicious. Overall, I enjoyed the lesson a lot and I would definitely take the initiative to make them myself in future.
By Sasank, Year 9





CANSAT



We were challenged with designing, testing and building a miniature satellite to fit within the constraints of a regular soft drink can. We were given the primary mission, which stated that our design had to measure air pressure and ambient temperature and had to develop a secondary mission to investigate or create anything we wanted.

We chose to use a wide range of electronic components such as a methane gas sensor, magnetometer, humidity sensor and a GPS module to be able to determine whether volcanoes are active or not, and extended this to volcanic activity on other planets. Our chosen mission is highly relevant, primarily due to the great strides that are being made to develop civilisation on Mars. Aptly, we named ourselves Volcanic!

As part of the design process, we expected to face some issues, but we couldn't have predicted the barrage of problems we would have to overcome. Despite this, we were able to produce a finished product to launch.

Once we had coded, designed, and manufactured our creation, it was time for the launch. We were given the amazing opportunity to go all the way to York to witness our hard work being launched 450m into the sky. We all agreed that it was a fantastic learning opportunity, and the launch went as expected - the parachute worked perfectly, and our components were safely recovered. We now have important and exciting data to analyse as part of our final report write-up.

We immensely enjoyed the whole competition, run jointly by the European Space Agency and Esero-UK. The experience allowed us to develop our time and project management skills, learn how to work effectively in a team, and get a feel for project work in STEM related careers, for example by talking to engineers from Raptor Aerospace. We are looking forward to doing it all again in the coming year.

Article by Volcanic.



Co-curricular and Sports Links

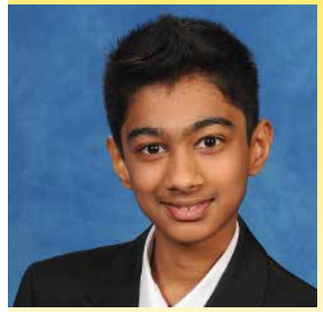
Co-curricular Timetable

Sports Fixtures

ECF CHESS CLUB

The Year 7 ECF chess club met for the final time on Tuesday. While it has been a turbulent year filled with national lockdowns and students having to self-isolate, the club has nevertheless met enough times to declare a winner of the club league. Congratulations to Joshua (7S) as overall winner and the player with the highest win ratio; and to Shourya (7D) and Mark (7B) for coming joint second place.







Pictured above: Joshua, Shourya and Mark

UNIVERSITY PREPARATION WEEK

On Monday 12 July the Economics and Business Department played host to Murali Satchithananda and Charlie Graham from Future Steps. They delivered two very well received lectures. The first talk was on how we can understand financial markets through the medium of behavioural economics. The second presentation looked at how politics, with particular reference to voting systems, shape the role of the public sector in society. We finished the day with an informative and invigorating question and answer session on life at university and what to expect when studying economics at tertiary level. Both Murali and Charlie were impressed by the quality of the questions being asked. One of the students, Karun K in Year 12 felt moved to write:
'The series of talks by Future Steps on behavioural and public sector economics were insightful into how topical the subject can be. The talks on what Economics at university is really like, versus A-Level were also very useful as the speakers were candid about their experiences at university. The idea of developing your own theoretical insights rather than simply being confined to repeating current theory was the most exciting prospect for me'.

Tuesday saw the arrival of the Adam Smith Institute team. They delivered a series of thought-provoking presentations and in the process got students to think over and above what they believe they know or understand! The sixth formers were treated to lectures on topics as varied as the economics of immigration, aid versus trade, and the regulation of non-legitimate pharmaceuticals. The lecture on 'Why everything is still awesome' provided the audience with much needed up-lift and proved especially popular. The department and students would like to put on record their sincere thanks to Daniel Pryor (who was the main organiser of the day from the ASI side), Matt Kilcoyne, Mathew Lesh, Morgan Schondelmeier and John Macdonald for their efforts. This year's lectures proved that free-market / libertarian perspectives can be powerful tools to aid economic analysis and provide practical application to real-world problems. It certainly sparked some healthy debates in the subsequent post-talk sessions. Student Alex C commented: 'The representatives of the Adam Smith institute put us through our paces with detailed presentations on complex current day economic issues that challenged us to use our current economic knowledge, to apply it to real world examples and come up with an educated and well backed up opinion. My personal favourite was the seminar on trade and aid which demonstrated that providing aid to a country is not necessarily effective unless there are adequate incentives to ensure its effective use.'

In the afternoon, the students were given an insight to post-university careers, internships and networking. Many students felt this to be one of the highlights of the day. In addition, the students as part of the UPP programme have been given the opportunity to enter an essay competition with the main prize being a week's work experience at the ASI.



MEDICINE/ DENTISTRY TRIP

Students enjoyed a trip into central London as part of the Medicine and Dentistry University Preparation Programme. The morning involved a guided walk around the city of London exploring the full range (and horrors!) of London's past medical practices, expertly guided by Garry, a former clinician and public health expert no less! In the afternoon, students were treated to an in-depth and highly evocative description of surgery in the 18th century at the Old Operating Theatre Museum, Europe's oldest surviving operating theatre. There were looks of awe at the large metal probe used to remove bladder stones from male patients (without the use of anaesthetic!) and Abbas volunteered to be the patient undergoing an amputation, experiencing the discomfort of the operating table first-hand. The two experiences linked brilliantly to give students a fascinating insight into medicine of the past and the transformative effects of anaesthetics, antiseptics and aseptic practices.









Pictured above: Biology students tudents undertaking undergraduate level lab work. They dissected a pig eye and carried out a Gram staining protocol on bacteria.

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OUT AND ABOUT





Pictured above: Different Y9 groups exploring the Wandle.





Pictured above: Year 8at Kew Gardens









Pictured above: Y10 at Beachy Head

Co-curricular and Sports Links

Co-curricular Timetable

Sports Fixtures







Pictured above: Pictures taken by Year 7 students on their visit to Kew Gardens as part of a photography competition.

Photographs top row left to right: taken by Shayan and Alexander.

Photograph bottom row: taken by Shatanik.

WILSON'S STUDENT TOSSES COIN FOR WIMBLEDON MENS' FINAL

Before I start, I would like to talk about Off The Record- the charity that I represent. They offer free and valuable mental health counselling for children and teens up to the age of 25. Their website can be found at https://www.talkofftherecord.org/

We started this magical day by getting picked up in an official Wimbledon Range Rover Discovery! It was huge and it needed to be, because it was meant to carry massive tennis bags! I felt like Tennis royalty! Then we met up with Rachel- who took us around Wimbledon and gave us everything we would ever need. She also interviewed me when I went to Wimbledon for the first time. My Mum had never been to Centre Court. She was dazzled by the sight of it. We went around and I was first greeted by someone very special. Rufus, the celebrity hawk who has his own Twitter page and scares the pesky pigeons by the grounds. He was the eye in the sky and he was so cool! The head bird keeper (yes- that's a thing) told me to be like a twig. So he jumped onto me and was very confused. After 20 seconds of him getting off me, he decided to poop- but not on my clothes (thankfully)!



Then I had to take part in some really cool media interviews. Two were with Wimbledon and the other was with the BBC. It was no doubt a great experience to have. The woman with the blue polka dot skirt is Rachel by the way! I also had the privilege of helping the groundsman to put up the net and arrange the towels for the players! I also met Gerry, who was the referee for the final and he took me around Centre Court to give me instructions on what to do. He also gave me a few helpful tips on how to flip the coin! Then we had lunch! We were in a members lounge which was very nice. There was a very formal dress code. So dad had to wear a blazer and a tie etc. However, I didn't need to because I wore a OTR shirt!



Then, we headed back to Centre Court just before the match. Mum and Dad were taken to their seats and I was taken to the clubhouse to meet Gerry again. It was really funny as everyone was calling me "sir"! I was so scared to flip the coin and I was genuinely getting sweaty. For a coin! I was given a show around the clubhouse. Un fortunately, I was not allowed to take photos as it is prohibited. The big moment. I was so excited but still scared. Then, they announced my name and who Off The Record is and how they had helped me. Gerry walked up with me on to Centre Court with everyone in the crowd clapping! The court burst into a very loud shout and I acted as naturally as I could. In the words of the infamous Madagascar Penguins I just "smiled and waved". But I will admit, I did smile a lot. But, then everyone looked in the opposite direction and it was at that moment I realised "Djokovic is going to walk onto the same court that I am standing on. I am going to meet him" And first, Berrettini walked up and the crowd burst out, but the sound quite frankly deafened me when Djokovic walked on. I was in shock and I was so excited! First Berrettini walked up and was jumping up and down. We fist-bumped and it was so chill. Then, I met Nole and I had to act like this was such a normal thing. So, I said "Hey man! Wassup!" In hindsight, I should never have said that!

Berrettini was given the choice and he called heads. I used all of my previous knowledge. I thought of the days spent practising. The hours spent just continuously flipping. It had all led to this moment. I breathed and both Nole and Berrettini looked at me. They expected me to perform well. Then, I flipped the coin as well as I could. It spun and spun (and spun again!) as though it was in slow motion. Each side- one with the face of Queen Elizabeth the other with the letters EP (Elizabeth and Phillip). Then, it landed. Heads. I had done it. I had done the impossible. No one thought I could- yet here I am. Telling the tale about how I had flipped THE coin. I had worked so hard for this and I did not let myself down. (If you haven't realised, I am being very sarcastic!). Berrettini decided to receive and there lies the beginning of a tale of the Final. Then, I took photos with the two and the biggest achievement was accomplished. Nole ruffled my hair. I have photographic evidence!



The rest is a blur but if there's one thing I want you to take away, it's that no matter who you are, you can struggle with mental health- and that you shouldn't be ashamed. Nor should you think you're alone. There are awesome charities, people and places such as school and Off The Record that can help you if you're struggling mentally. You are not alone.

Article by Sean, 8D.







CRICKET NEWS

Team Reports

1st XI v Dulwich College – Wilson's 1st XI played in their first two-day match against Dulwich College. The format was to play 96 overs each day in a one innings match. On winning the toss Dulwich put Wilson's in to bat. After a cautious start from Arjun (12) and Pranav (26) the Wilson's batsmen found it difficult to bat for long periods of time and through some indifferent shots wickets started to fall. Wilson's were bowled out for 88 off 47 overs. Excellent bowling from the Wilson's opening bowlers Pranav and Mustafa made the batsmen play and miss on numerous occasions. It was the introduction of Adam that broke the opening partnership and along with Daniel they continued to apply pressure on the Dulwich batsmen. After dropping a couple of difficult catches Dulwich passed the Wilson's total in their 49th over with 6 wickets remaining. All the Wilson's bowlers bowled with control but the standout bowler of the day was Mustafa with figures of 11 overs, 2 wickets for 20 runs. Unfortunately, Day 2 was abandoned due to rain.



1st XI v Forty Club - The Forty Club XI batted first and posted a score of 205 for 4 off 40 overs. Niruthihan picked up 2 wickets for 38 runs but Daniel was the pick of the bowlers bowling his 8 overs for 25 runs. The middle order of the Forty Club showed their experience in their last 10 overs by scoring 80 runs which got them to a competitive score. In reply, Wilson's gave a good account of themselves with Finley scoring a solid 55, Daniel hitting a brisk 30 and Udith a watchful 37. Unfortunately, Wilson's finished 22 runs short of victory.

1st XI v Wallington Grammar – In our last match of the season we played our local rivals Wallington County Grammar School. On winning the toss, Wilson's put Wallington into bat and soon had them in trouble. A wicket in the first over from Daniel was soon followed by the catch of the season from Daniel who got an amazing caught and bowled to dismiss Wallington's best batsman. Daniel ended with fine figures of 3 for 11 off 4 overs. The introduction of debutant Dylan finished off the Wallington batsmen with a disciplined spell of line and length bowling which was rewarded with him taking 3 wickets for 8 runs from 3 overs and Wallington finished all out for 76. The Wilson's batsmen Pranav (41) and Finley (27) made light work of the total and finished the match winning by 9 wickets.

SURREY JUNIOR SQUASH

Over the weekend, I competed in the Surrey Junior Squash Championships and won in the boy's under 19 event, which was not only my first tournament in over a year, but also my last as a junior. Having spent the past year deprived of competitive fixtures, I knew that correct preparation would be paramount for success. There was not a moment to waste because I only had a few weeks prior to the tournament which were spent either in the gym or on court since I had just finished my CCT exams.

The Championships were held at Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club, and unlike previous years it was far from the norm due to covid restrictions. The number of spectators was drastically reduced, and many policies were imposed which almost alienated me from the whole tournament experience. Matches were muted instead of the noisy buzz of excitement from the crowd. Despite this, it was amazing to see the sport gradually returning to how it was before and being able to meet many of my friends from the circuit who I hadn't seen for over a year. Tensions were high, especially due to this being one of the first tournaments and it was a very competitive 3 day weekend. This is a very prestigious event, with the trophy dating back to the mid-1970s, so it holds strong emotional value not only to me but for the previous winners as well. It was an amazing feeling to be able to win and get hold of the trophy and is something I will remember for a long time.

This tournament was also played by my younger brother in the boy's under 17 category. After easing through the early rounds, he overcame a tricky opponent in the semi-final, to face the top seed in the final who had beaten him in the previous county championship finals. This time he showed great spirit to fight back from 2 sets down and regain his title of Surrey Champion as well.



I am indebted to my coaches and support from Wilson's who have helped me to achieve this success in my final county championships before I start university later this year.

Article by Ethan (Year 13)

Co-curricular and Sports Links

Co-curricular Timetable

Sports Fixtures

CRICKET RESULTS

Monday 5 July 2021
Wilson's vs. Dulwich College
1st XI lost by 6 wickets
Wednesday 7 July 2021
Wilson's vs Forty Club
1st XI lost by 22 runs
Thursday 8 July 2021
Wilson's vs. Wallington County Grammar
1st XI won by 9 wickets



Pictured left: Ethan (Y13) with his trophy and
Pictured above: Christopher with his medal.